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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/727,554	12/04/2000	Masahiro Arai	040679/1173	4320

22428 7590 07/30/2003

FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

CORRIGAN, JAIME W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3748

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DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/727,554	ARAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jaime W Corrigan	3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,5,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>16_17</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Request for Reconsideration filed on 19 November 2002. Overall, claims 1-10 are pending in this application. The arguments with respect to the references applied in the first Office Action were deemed persuasive, however, a new non-final rejection is set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1, 5, 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (PN 6,170,446).

Regarding claims 1, 5 Hashimoto discloses a method for controlling intake air (See Column 2 Lines 44-67) of an internal combustion engine, the engine having at least one combustion chamber (See Figure 10 (8)) provided with an intake valve (See Figure 10 (17)) together with an intake manifold (See Figure 10 (15), Column 2 Lines 44-47) provided with a throttle valve (See Figure 10 (26)), wherein the opening and closure timings of the intake valve are adjustable (See Column 7 Lines 49-55, Column 9

Lines 24-44) independently from a crankshaft position to control the amount of intake air (See Column 2 Lines 44-48, 51-54, Column 7 Lines 49-55, Column 9 Lines 24-26) supplied to the combustion chamber, the method comprising: damping (See Column 9 Lines 16-44) an operating signal for the intake valve relative to a change in acceleration or deceleration demand on the engine, for unthrottled (See Column 11 Lines 9-16, Column 20 Lines 19-25) intake air control.

Regarding claim 9 Hashimoto discloses the operating signal is for timing the opening and closing of the intake valve (See Column 7 Lines 49-55, Column 9 Lines 24-44).

Regarding claim 10 Hashimoto discloses the operating signal is for regulating the air intake into the combustion chamber (See Column 2 Lines 44-48, 51-54, Column 7 Lines 49-55, Column 9 Lines 24-26).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 9-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kruger (PN 5,031,582), Hammoud et al. (PN 6,405,706) disclose similar variable valve timing systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Jaime Corrigan whose telephone number is (703) 308-2639. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. 2nd Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reached on (703) 308-2623. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9302. After Final (703) 872-9303.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

JC

Jaime Corrigan
Jaime Corrigan
Patent Examiner

July 24, 2003

Art Unit 3748

Binh Tran
Binh Tran
PATENT EXAMINER